industrial sector with greater inflow of technology, foreign investments and increased trade. This is evident from the following comparision of foreign technology agreements, FDI inflows, and amount of trade during 1991 -the year when economic reforms were initiated, and during 2002.

Item	1991	2001
FDI inflows ($ million)	143.62	4281.10
Foreign Technology Agreement (no's)	661	6921*
Exports of manufactured goods ($ million)	13229#	35192 #

*upto December 2001 # financial year

(b) and (c) In order to assess global competitiveness of Indian industry, studies have been entrusted to organisations of international repute in respect of Cement, Pulp and paper industry and Capital goods sector.

To carry forward second generation reforms, the budget strategy for the current financial year is on consolidation of tax reforms and to continue fiscal adjustment at both the Central and State levels. The Government is working jointly with the States through the Fiscal Reforms Incentive Fund set up on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

In pursuance of the power sector reforms, the Ministry of Power has already signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 21 States and is expected to complete the exercise with the remaining States soon. The Government has enhanced plan allocation of Rs. 3500 crore for 2002-2003 under the Accelerated Power Development Fund (APDP), up from Rs. 1,500 crore last year. States will have access to this fund on the basis of agreed reform programmes.

Irregularities in Exort Inspection Council

627. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Members of Parliament have urged the Prime Minister to order a high-level probe into the serious irregularities in Export Inspection Councial of India;

(b) if so, whether the members have furnished details about the acts of omission and commission and some officials going against the rules and regulations;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has conducted any enquiry;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to check the irregularities in this Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (e) S/Shri Abani Roy and Hari Shankar Mahale, Members of Parliament have written to Prime Minister pointing out certain alleged irregularities in the functioning of the Export Inspection Council of India (EIC). Examination of these alleged irregularities had been started. EIC is expected to follow the same degree of prudence and standard as is required for expenditure in the Government. The accounts of EIC are subject to statutory audit by the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India and officers concerned are accountable for irregularity, it any, noticed therein.

Implementation of Agri-Export Zone Scheme

628. DR.T.SUBBARAMIREDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Exim Policy, 2001-02, 28 agri-export zones have so far been set up in 14 selected States;

(b) if so, what was the total multi-agency investment, so far;

(c) what is the investment by the private sector, Central Government agencies and also by the State Governments;

(d) whether the nodal agency for the programme, Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority has claimed that the total investment will result in an export earning of Rs. 3440.53 crore in the next five years; and

(e) if so, to what extent this plan has been fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Government has approved setting up of 28 Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) in 14 different States;